

PANDEMIC AND GIRLS' EDUCATION: A SHORT REVIEW

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ABSTRACT:

Last two year were very hard for every country infact for the whole world. COVID-19 drastically changed the life of people. From developing countries to developed countries, all have been affected from this pandemic. Every country was left with an only option i.e., complete lockdown to stop the spreading of virus which affected every sector of the nations. This review paper will highlight the impact of pandemic on girls' education living in rural area. Secondary data has been used According to the United Nations; the COVID-19 pandemic affected approximately 1.2 billion students' education in last two years. However, the online education system has been emerged as a lifeline for the students to support their education. Although, online education is not equally accessible for everyone specifically in developing and under-developed country. In India, OES is challenging due to lack of technical infrastructure including smartphone, internet, electricity, and internet connection etc. Moreover, Parents awareness and attitude regarding online education are also affecting students' primary education participant

Keywords: Covid-19, Girls Education, Online Education, Rural, Gender biasness.

INTRODUCTION

The first case of sars-cov-2 came into notice in December 2019 in Wuhan city China. However, WHO declared this disease as a pandemic in Feb 2020 when cases spreads around the world(tarkar, 2020). In India the first case was found on Jan 30 ,2020 (). Indian government imposed the first lockdown on march 2020 for 14days further it was extended. Everything was closed till further notice

The coronavirus pandemic has caused a disturbing health crisis in India resulting in food shortages, and a loss of income for labour class and low-income households. Marginalized populations have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, which has impacted their safety, mental health, standard of living, and overall chance of social mobility. (Rana, 2021) Covid -19 has changed everything so as education system too. every country shut their educational institutes for a year education institution are based on traditional method of teaching

Pandemic has made us released that we need to focus on formalizing on online education and a proper system must be developed as it is gaining momentum and it will undoubtedly continue to expand across all levels and forms of education. (Serdyukov, 2021)

In country like India, a developing country, education plays an important role in everyone life. Irrespective of their gender, place, class etc. India has a mixed population of urban and rural, 65% belongs to rural area (world bank 2020). where 77.7 % population is literate in which educated male population is 84.7% educated female population is 70.30%, According to NSO data, the literacy rate has increased from 73 in 2011 to 77.7 in 2017. It is observed that the female and male literacy rate in 2017 is at 70.3and 84.7 respectively)

For a betterment of country and their people , population need to be educated so that they can better their life socially and economically and contribute to the development of the country

when we talk about developing economical nations like India, girls' education has been neglected. (Jha, 2021) Although the status of girl's child education was improving as government has launched many schemes regarding girl education and their welfare. , central government and state government has launched many scheme/ (government of india, n.d.)programs, are listed below

| <i>Central government scheme/program</i> | |
|--|--|
| • | Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao |
| • | Sukanya SamriddhiYojna |
| • | Balika SamriddhiYojna |
| • | CBSE Scholarship Scheme/Policy for Girl Education |

Apart from the central government, the Indian State governments also actively offer several schemes that benefit girl children. Some of these include:

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| • | Rajshri Yojna – Rajasthan |
| • | Girl child protection scheme - Andhra Pradesh |
| • | SivagamiAmmaiyar Memorial girl child protection scheme - Tamil Nadu. |
| • | Ladli Laxmi Yojana - Madhya Pradesh. |
| • | Ladli - Delhi & Haryana |
| • | MukhyamantriLaadliYojna – Uttar Pradesh |
| • | Mukhyamantri Kanya Suraksha Yojna - Bihar |

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| • Ladli scheme - Haryana |
| • Kishori Shakti Yojana - Odisha |
| • MAMTA scheme for girl child - Goa |
| • Saraswati Bicycle Scheme - Chhattisgarh. |
| • West Bengal KanyashreePrakalpa - West Bengal |
| • Bhagyalaxmi scheme – Karnataka |

We are seeing that these last two years has made us to shift toward online education system and still closure of educational institutes has left no option to continue study rather depend on online education, according to new data released by UNICEF, 168 million children globally did not go to school for almost an entire year due to covid lockdown. According to the UN 1.2 billion learners or 68% of the total students enrolled have been affected by academic closures (The United Nations, 2020). Shifting toward online is necessity of today's hour. An Online learning is a type of non-formal education and distant learning that is offered via the internet utilizing smart devices like smartphone, laptop, computers Online education has been defined as "gaining and obtaining information without physical touch with professors." It has become a godsend for India because young people are learning numerous online courses in order to progress in their careers.however, it may affect education of girls especially living in rural area and those who come from lower middle class and remote. **According to NFHS-5 (2019-2020)** only 24.6% women from rural area has used internet ever.

OBJECTIVE

To understand the impact of pandemic on girls' education

METHODOLOGY

Secondary data like government data, blogs, books, paper has been used in this review.

LITERATURE OF REVIEW

Lockdown made students to stay at home they were not allowed to move outside which effectedthe students physically as well as mentally. The sudden shift from offline to online classes changes the lifestyle of students. According to UNICEF's most recent data, at least one in every seven children has been directly affected by lockdowns, and more than 1.6 billion children have lost some form of education. Many young people are terrified, furious, and worried about their future because of disruptions in their routines, education, and recreation, as well as concerns about family income and health. and leads to a mental disease that accounts for 1/6thof all health problems, with India accounting for roughly 15% of the worldwide burden of mental, neurological, and substance abuse disorders, according to WHO data. There are ample of studies which states the limitation online classes. Online class differs from face-to-face class in learning effectiveness (chaudhery, 2015) offline classes give an environment

where students interact with other students and teacher. from Brainstorming to open discussion to unconditional doubts. Every single students get mentoring by teacher. However, a lot is getting lost in this transitional conversion of online classrooms right now. another study concludes that blended learning ambience increases students' academic achievement levels in elementary classrooms when teachers were supported with necessary policies and proficiencies (et.al, 2020) .There is no doubt that online education comes as boon during this pandemic.in continuation of studies .nevertheless it will be a barrier too for many unprivileged students in low income family, parents keep basic need such as food, shelter and cloth as priority and education as secondary need , so chances of getting gender biased in giving education facility to their children is more. It is a challenge for rural parents to provide quality education at home to their children meanwhile it was difficult for students too to continue.

DISCUSSION:

Girls' education is an important topic for developing country. Investment in girls' education can bring a positive change in surroundings and society (UNICEF). Since independence government has taken many initiatives to improve the status of girl's education but the pandemic has had a particularly detrimental impact on girls and young females, who are uncertain about their educational opportunities (rana 2021). According to UNESCO 11 million girls may not return to school. This worrisome figure not only jeopardizes decades of progress toward gender equality, but also exposes girls all across the world to adolescent pregnancy, early and forced marriage, and abuse. School is more than just a means to a better future for many young women. It's a lifeline. A number of reasons currently discourage Indian girls from attending school, particularly those from rural areas and low-income families. However, the major reason is **lack of technical infrastructure, gender divide, lack of basic resources and negative parental attitude**. According to Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Data from the Mission Antyodaya, a nationwide survey of villages conducted by the ministry of rural development, found that- less than 8 hours of electricity is received by 20% of the India's households and Only 47% received more than 12 hours. Whereas ThePew, reported that only 24% Indian population have smartphones while rest of the population have keypad phone on which video cannot be displayed (Ali, 2020). It's difficult for parents to give their phone to children for attending classes from continuously 6-8 hours, situation gets tough when there are 2-3 kids to attend online class as they have only phone at home. Somehow if they manage to attend the classes, internet speed and data become a hinderance. A poll conducted by IIT Kanpur, 9.3% of the institute's 2,789 students were unable to download or study online. Only 34.1 percent of them had a good enough internet connection to view real-time lectures. Only 57 percent of students have the requisite infrastructure — computer, router, and printer — at home to attend online classes, according to another poll performed by LocalCircles among 25,000 respondents. This is the situation of urban and semi urban area imagine the situation in remote and rural area A report by Economics Times, India ranks 131 out of 138 countries in mobile internet speed with average speed of 12.07 Mbps. 1GB data per day given by most of the telecom companies which is not sufficient for attending 6-8 hours class and cost between 250-350rs, validity 28 days. Many people have lost their employment or been forced to work on a half-salary basis as a result of the pandemic. Most of the students' families cannot even afford this

amount for internet.(Damodhareet.al 2021) found in their study that in regard to the cost of the internet, 38.79% students have reported that they are paying more than Rs 200.00 per month towards internet which is quite a high amount as maximum of them belongs to the lower economic strata. Lack of resources might makeparents more gender biased and create a negative attitude towards girls' education.Gender bias in educational decisions is a within-household phenomena, not an artefact of across-household disparities in unobserved factors, according to family fixed effects analysis. A study by Datta et.al revealed that, rather than gender bias fading over time, it has simply evolved in how it is performed within the home. Gender bias was manifested in 1995 by a much higher probability of boys enrolling in school than girls, but by 2014, gender bias was manifested by significantly higher conditional education expenditure on boys than girls, mostly achieved through pro-male private school enrolment decisions.

CONCLUSION

Covid -19 is negativelyaffectinggirls' educationespecially in rural area of developing countries. Barrier like technical infrastructure and lack of skilled teachersis making them deprive of online education.Online education is a broad term that refers to teaching and learning through the internet using technological tools and platforms. Good internet connections, learning software, digital abilities, availability, and access to technology are all aspects that contribute to the success of online education. Online education platforms are critical instruments for promoting inclusive education and distance learning. Government should take steps to curb this technical barrier problem in remote and rural area to stop being girl to deprive of right to education as they should be educated for the futureof their family and nation becausegirls who acquire an education are less likely to marry early and conduct healthier, more productive lives. They have higher salaries, are more involved in the issues that impact them, and are able to better other women. Education for girls boosts economies and decreases inequity.

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